

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for displaying a program guide comprising:
 - a storing device for storing contract conditions of a plurality of programs;
 - a program information receiving device for receiving information about programs;
 - a program selection accepting device for accepting a selection of a desirable program from a plurality of the programs;
 - a contract conditions reading device for reading the contract conditions corresponding to a selected program whose selection is accepted;
 - a program information reading device for reading the information about the selected program;
 - a determining device for determining whether the selected program is allowed to be viewed by comparison between the read information and the read contract conditions; and
 - a displaying device for displaying information to specify the selected program, and information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on an identical screen, at least if the result of determining is that the selected program is not allowed to be viewed.
2. The apparatus for displaying a program guide according to claim 1, wherein the displaying device also displays information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on the identical screen, if the result of determining is that the selected program is allowed to be viewed.

3. The apparatus for displaying a program guide according to claim 1, wherein the information about programs read by the program information receiving device is provided by EPG data.

4. The apparatus for displaying a program guide according to claim 1, wherein the information about programs read by the program information reading device includes at least a name of the programs, information about the contents of the programs, start time of the programs, length of the programs or finish time of the programs, broadcasting channels of the programs, broadcasting dates of the programs, and viewing conditions of the programs;

the determining device determines whether the selected program is allowed to be viewed by comparison between the read viewing conditions and the read contract conditions; and

the displaying device displays at least the name of the selected program, the contents of the selected program, and information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on the identical screen, at least if the result of determining is that the selected program is not allowed to be viewed.

5. The apparatus for displaying a program guide according to claim 4, wherein the displaying device also displays information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on the identical screen, if the result of determining is that the selected program is allowed to be viewed.

6. The apparatus for displaying a program guide according to claim 4, wherein the information about programs read by the

program information receiving device is provided by EPG data.

7. A method of displaying a program guide comprising the processes of:

- storing contract conditions of a plurality of programs;

- receiving information about programs;

- accepting a selection of a desirable program from a plurality of the programs;

- reading the contract conditions corresponding to a selected program whose selection is accepted;

- reading the information about the selected program;

- determining whether the selected program is allowed to be viewed by comparison between the read information and the read contract conditions; and

- displaying information to specify the selected program, and information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on an identical screen, at least if the result of determining is that the selected program is not allowed to be viewed.

8. The method of displaying a program guide according to claim 7, wherein the process of displaying information also displays information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on the identical screen, if the result of determining is that the selected program is allowed to be viewed.

9. The method of displaying a program guide according to claim 7, wherein the received information about programs is provided by EPG data.

10. The method for displaying a program guide according to claim 7, wherein the received information about programs includes at least a name of the programs, information about the contents of the programs, start time of the programs, length of the programs or finish time of the programs, broadcasting channels of the programs, broadcasting dates of the programs, and viewing conditions of the programs;

the process of determining determines whether the selected program is allowed to be viewed by comparison between the read viewing conditions and the read contract conditions; and

the process of displaying displays at least the name of the selected program, the contents of the selected program, and information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on the identical screen, at least if the result of determining is that the selected program is not allowed to be viewed.

11. The method of displaying a program guide according to claim 10, wherein the process of displaying information also displays information on the basis of the result of determining by the determining device on the identical screen, if the result of determining is that the selected program is allowed to be viewed.

12. The method of displaying a program guide according to claim 10, wherein the received information about programs is provided by EPG data.